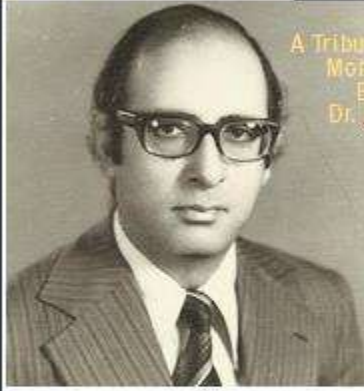


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**MAG85 JULY 2013**



A Tribute to Professor  
Mohammad Akram  
By his daughter  
Dr. Sheema Akram

A DIGITAL PRODUCTION BY THE  
DMC CLASS OF 1985

EDITED BY: SALEEM A KHANANI AND  
SAMEENA KHAN

DEDICATED TO PROFESSOR MOHAMMAD AKRAM AND  
MADAM SALMA AKRAM  
BY THEIR STUDENTS  
DMC CLASS OF 1985

The best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book.

**SPECIAL TRIBUTES BY**  
DR. SHEEMA AKRAM AND DR. FAYYAZ AHMED SHAIKH

## **A DAUGHTER'S TRIBUTE TO AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN AND FATHER**

I am Dr Sheema Farhan, Prof Dr M. Akram's youngest daughter. Following my parents' footsteps, I became a doctor. I graduated from Dow Medical College in 1999 and then did my M-Phil in physiology from BMSI. Currently I am an associate professor in physiology at the Altamash Institute of Dental Medicine.

First I would like to thank the Class of '85 for giving this opportunity to share my father's memories. We as a family know what a great man he was, but the fact that his greatness is recognized by his students, friends and colleagues is highly appreciated.

I would like to start by giving a brief life history. My father Dr. M. Akram was born in Nagpur, India where his father was the Mayor of the city. Being considered the most brilliant child, he became the first doctor in his family. He graduated from Dow Medical College (DMC) and did his M-Phil in Histopathology from BMSI, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical College (JPMC).

After becoming a doctor he married my mother, Prof Dr Salma Akram, whom you all know very well. They both taught at DMC as Professors of Pathology. Masha Allah besides being a charming and an adorable couple, my parents were considered to be wonderful and friendly professors.

I am sure most of you being his students are aware of his excellence in teaching. For I've often been told by a number of his students, "Do you know how popular your parents are and how lucky you are to be their daughter?" Well I truly thank Allah for blessing me with such wonderful parents.

My father also actively participated in all college activities. Besides being a professor in DMC, he also maintained his contributions as a pathologist. He had been associated with the Karachi Laboratory, and was an active founder member of the Pakistan Association of Pathologists.

My father was the kind of a man who could make friends in a minute's conversation.

We are three siblings; My eldest sister, Dr Saadia Aamir, Assoc Prof Pathology DUHS, my brother, Dr Adnan Akram, Assist Prof at Hamdard University and then myself. Words fail me when it comes to describing what a wonderful father he was. To state it briefly, I would say, he reached perfection. He was our friend, our guide, our teacher. He taught us to live honestly with a positive attitude. If I could be half as good a parent as he was I would consider that an achievement.

He was an extremely loving father and even more loving grandfather. I don't remember a single wish that he did not fulfill or try to fulfill. Even when he was not well he fully participated in our children's birthdays and also went on outings with us.

During his illness he never complained and always had firm belief in Allah, and said that whatever He does is for the best. His will power was exemplary.

At the end I would like to say all of us have to go one day. But, a successful man is he, who gains love and respect during life and even after passing away is remembered with love and affection. I would say my father had such a fulfilling life. He lived like a mentor for everyone and even now, when he is not with us, everyone remembers him with love and affection. There is no replacement for such a great loss. He considered all his students like his children and was always full of praises for them. Please pray for him that he may get the highest place in Jannah.



PROF AKRAM AND MADAM SALMA AKRAM



FAYYAZ AND AMJAD WITH THE  
PROFESSORS

*DMC class of 1985 was privileged to be taught and mentored by several outstanding teachers. Professor Mohammad Akram and Madam Salma Akram were among those teachers who find their way into the hearts and souls of their students. We remember our teachers fondly and express our gratitude to them.*

*The task of the excellent teacher is to stimulate "apparently ordinary" people to unusual effort. The tough problem is not in identifying winners: it is in making winners out of ordinary people.  
~K. Patricia Cross*

*The class is particularly grateful to Dr. Sheema Farhan, the worthy daughter of great parents, for writing this touching tribute to her father and sharing with us these valuable family photos.*

## PROFESSOR AKRAM AND FAMILY IN PICTURES







A LOVELY COUPLE INDEED!



A LOVING GRAND FATHER

## **A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR AKRAM BY A STUDENT**

### **DR. FAYYAZ AHMED SHAIKH DOW 1985**

It was Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2012 at around 6 am and I was sitting at the BBC studio in West London preparing to appear on an interview about the new non-invasive treatment device for the treatment of migraine and was thinking how proud my parents would have been if they were alive today, and my mentors who got me to this stage. When I think of mentors Prof Akram and Madam Salma are at the top among all those from School to my current post. As I was thinking, I received a text from Afzal Saeed informing me that Professor Akram had passed away just a few minutes ago peacefully to meet the creator of this world. I was shocked! I didn't know whether I would be able to cope with the live interview. The times spent at Dow went through my mind with images of the days of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years; the exams that we went through and the guidance and the teaching we received from the professor couple that engraved inspirations in the lives of many of us.

I had just met Professor Akram a few months ago during a visit to Karachi. He looked as graceful as ever in spite of the illness he was going through. I had only been in touch with him via telephone on very few occasions since I left Karachi in 1986 until 2010 when I saw his photograph in the D85 silver jubilee gathering and was shocked to see how weak he looked. I rang Afzal who informed me that Akram Sahib had gone through chemo and radiotherapy for laryngeal cancer in recent times. I rang his home and had to just say my name and was surprised that he did remember me. He said 'Oh Fayyaz how are you? ...not heard from you for a long time...' I thought he couldn't have remembered me as he must have taught tens of thousands of students in the last 25 years so I asked again. "Sir, are you sure you know exactly which Fayyaz?" He said "Yes Fayyaz. You were in the same class as that of Abdul Jabbar and Saleem Abubakar. How could I forget as your class was one of the very kindest of the batches I have ever seen?" I thought this was amazing, and I felt guilty that over many years being busy in establishing my portfolio I hadn't been to visit to these great mentors during my visits to Karachi. I remained in touch with both quite frequently since then and had visited them during my visits to Karachi. He was always keen to speak to me in spite of difficulty in speaking, and on occasions when I had put the phone down after speaking to Madam Salma, he rang back telling me off that I shouldn't have done that.

Although I had never met him one to one in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year MBBS when we were studying General Pathology and Pharmacology, I was extremely impressed with his teaching skills and the attention he gave to his students with a passion for the subject of pathology. With his wife, Madam Salma, in the same department, the two made such a lovely couple, and looked so elegant and graceful that I took them as role models. It was at that time that I thought how nice it would be to have a doctor wife and be on the same wavelength both at home and at work for the rest of the life. They became an inspiration both professionally and in general for the rest of my life. Whether I succeeded in this is a separate matter but they had portrayed a beautiful example of a couple that many people would envy. I came first with honors in both subjects that year having been third both in Intermediate and the first professional before. I had absolutely no doubt in dedicating this

success to the inspiration from my teachers. I met them personally for the very first time to thank them for their teaching and motivation. I thought he would just say well done but astonished when he said “Fayyaz I am very sorry that you didn’t get distinction, although you deserved it. If you had answered the only one question that you couldn’t answer to Professor Hassan you would have been there.” “WHAT”? I thought how humble he was apologising to his student whom he hadn’t met before. Since then I had always seen him as the role model and my inspiration, a motivation to do better and achieve more. I went many times during the remainder of the MBBS to be guided and he was always pleased to advice and mentor.

I have never seen a couple in the same profession and almost at the same level having got on so well with each other. I think the soft spoken personalities of both have seen them through raising their children and nurturing their students to a very high standard. I have never met any of his students who had said anything beyond respect and praises. Professor Akram was passionate about his work as a teacher and as a pathologist. I know many of our classmates who followed the footsteps and have achieved their goals.

I didn’t see any change in Madam over the last 25 years but she looked much different when I visited her recently after the demise of her husband. Although she was as loving and caring as ever, I could see that the loss of Akram Sahib had been very difficult for her. May Allah grant our great teacher, Akram Sahib, the highest rank in paradise and give sabre jameel to his family. Madam Salma is on the Facebook and so is her son Mohammad Adnan. She doesn’t visit the FB much but Adnan is very good in passing messages to her.

### **AN UNFORGETTABLE INCIDENT WITH PROFESSOR MOHAMMAD AKRAM SALEEM ABUBAKAR KHANANI, DOW 1985**

It was in during our fourth year viva voce of special pathology that I encountered a different dimension of Professor Mohammad Akram’s personality. We all knew his strengths as a teacher, and his graceful and kind nature. However, this was an entirely different experience. Professor Akram and Madam Salma were our internal examiners while Professors Hasnain Kazmi and M M Hassan were the external ones. The day I took my viva, Professor Hassan could not come. Professor Akram was doing double duty and was making assessments for both. After my viva ended he asked me to return the next day to be examined by Professor Hassan. I was the only one who was being asked to go through the viva again even if it was with one examiner only. Akram sahib calmed down my anxiety by stating that since I was one of the contenders for the top three positions, it would be unfair to him, me and the other contenders if I did not face all the examiners. He wanted to maintain absolute neutrality in this matter! This was astonishing for me. How fair an individual he was even as an examiner! I did return the following day to be examined by Professor M M Hassan and still managed to maintain my position but it was the lesson learnt from this experience that I will always carry with me for the rest of my life. Be fair even when you have authority!

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا  
كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

WELCOME RAMADAN THE BLESSED MONTH OF FASTING

”آج کی پیاری بات“  
اللہ تعالیٰ نے فرمایا:  
اگر میں نے تمام باتیں قسمت میں  
لکھی ہوتی تو میں اپنے بندوں کو دعا  
مانگنا نہیں سکھاتا۔

”کمزور انسان کبھی معاف نہیں کر سکتا  
معاف کرنا مضبوط لوگوں کی  
صفت ہوتی ہے۔“

www.ranapk.com

عقل مند آدمی جب کوئی خاص اور اہم فیصلہ کرتا  
ہے تو بہت سوچتا ہے، دل و دماغ کی سنتا ہے،  
حالات کو پرکھتا ہے، دلیل کو زیر غور لاتا ہے،  
مثبت اور منفی پہلو کا جائزہ لیتا ہے،  
اپنے والدین اور بہن بھائیوں سے رائے لیتا ہے،  
اور آخر میں کرتا وہی ہے جو  
اس کی بیوی کہتی ہے!!

اپنی نہایت  
اہم بات



منیر نامہ

## Adventures of Colonel Muneer in the USA WITH BHABHI



WITH AMJAD ALI



WITH ANWAR PANJA

**ARIF HUSSAIN, COLONEL MUNEEB AND AMJAD ALI**



**MUSLIM JAMIL, ANWAR PANJA, MUNEEB AND UMAR FAROOQ**



## ON BEING A GRANDMOTHER NAFEES JALALI/ZUBAIR

When you bear children you have big dreams which get lost in every day chores and small problems. Then one day one of them is a graduate and the other day a father, you suddenly realize those dreams came true with Allah's blessings.

These milestones of our life are like the stars marking our success as parents. We get emotional, happy and even cry but, more importantly than all, bow our heads down in sincere humbleness. It's only Allah that made all this happen. Alhamdulillah!

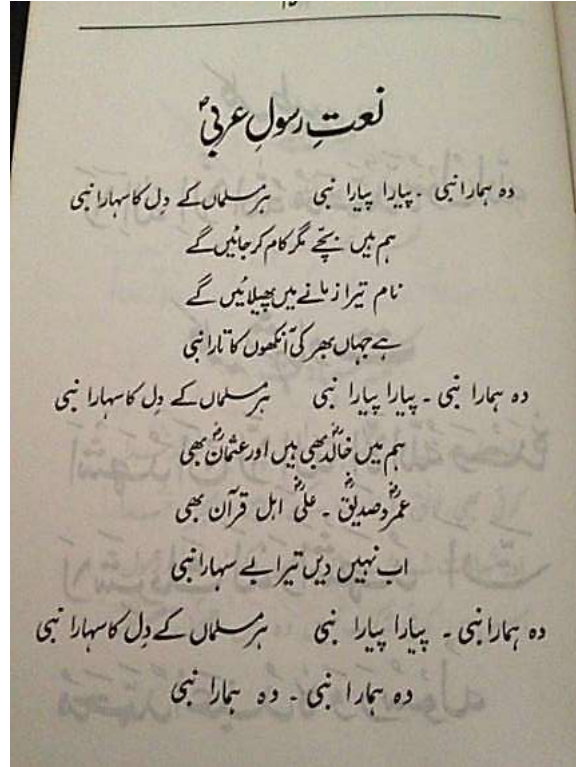
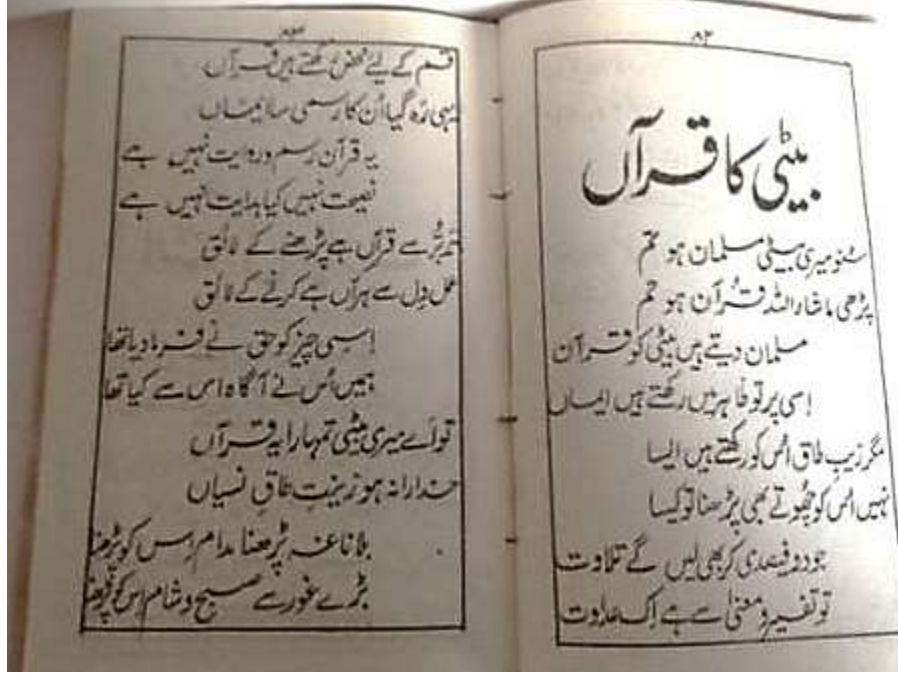
**Here is my graduate son Zyre and now meet the latest, the sweetest  
and the brightest addition to my beautiful family,  
my grandson Zayan Ahmed Qazi**





## FROM THE ARCHIVES OF IZHAR KHAN

My maternal grandfather, Akbar Khan Asghar was a civil engineer and a poet. For my mother's wedding he published a book of his poems entitled *Beti ka jahaiz*. My mother Asghari Khanum was a teacher at Nasra School and was also a poet. She wrote a book of poetry for children called *Kalion ki maala*.





**A DAUGHTER REMEMBERS HER FATHER  
DR. GIEZLA IQBAL DOW 1985**

## **I LOVE YOU DAD**

As I lay in my bed ,with a window ajar,  
Bringing air and sunlight, from so very Far.  
My mind is wandering, the path as I tread,  
The thoughts in my mind, held with a  
thread.  
The time I took, my very first step  
Your outstretched hands were there to  
help.  
I staggered! I fell and got up again!  
Trying to stand firm, on ever moving sand.  
You taught me to fight, to face and  
persevere  
Hold my head high in conditions so severe.  
Your teachings, your Wisdom have given  
me strength  
Your love and compassion have made me  
stand.  
Fewer words always that you had to offer  
Took me ages for the meanings to gather.  
Hidden smile always, was about to show  
How much love there would always flow  
Just a little smile, a little giggle I felt  
Even with anger you would always melt.  
Your sight your vision, has taught me so  
How to focus a point, at a distance....to  
know.  
Many small things that were imbibed from  
you  
Were so easily taught, even without to do.  
Your shoulder was there when I wanted to  
cry  
Held me so tight, even when I didn't try.  
Now, when you are, no more here  
Time gone by, with all my fear  
Just a few words, a few lines to tell.....  
Millions of times, lifted me when I fell.

As always before you will understand .....  
How much I miss you!  
How much I am sad,  
I hope it's not too late to say  
I LOVE You ,LOVE You, LOVE you  
DAD



Giezla

## A POEM BY SAM KHAN

### کمال

تم بھی کیسا کمال کرتے ہو  
سب کو یوں استعمال کرتے ہو  
کیسے لفظوں کے جال بنتے ہو  
کیسے جادو سے کام لیتے ہو؟

دوستی، پیار اور محبت کو  
کس طرح اپنے کام میں لا کر  
اپنے یاروں کو، اپنے پیاروں کو  
کتنی نرمی سے، کتنے پریم کے ساتھ  
جب بھی چاہو خرید لیتے ہو  
روز کتنے فریب دیتے ہو؟؟  
روز کتنے فریب دیتے ہو؟؟

---

تم سے یہ دوستی کا ناطہ بھی  
ایک رشتہ ہے خود فریبی کا  
جیسے ریشم کی ڈور کا پھندہ  
جیسے مکڑی کا اک ملائم جال  
...جتنا کھینچوں یہ اور کستا ہے

---

کانچ اور روشنی کا نازک پل  
دوستی کا یہ پر خطر رستہ  
میرا تم سے یہ پیار کا رشتہ  
جب بھی کمزور پڑے لگتا ہے  
( یا ضرورت تمہیں جو میری پڑے؟ )  
تم، جو حساس بھی ہو، ظالم بھی  
اسی لمحے پلٹ کے آتے ہو  
پھر وفا کے ترانے گاتے ہو  
دوستی کا یقین دلاتے ہو

---

اور میرا سدا کا پاگل دل  
دوستی اور وفا کا مارا دل  
مرتے رشتے میں سانس ڈالنے کو  
تم سے ملنے کو، بات کرنے کو  
پھر رضامند ہونے لگتا ہے  
..... زخم دل پھر سے بھرے لگتا ہے  
ثمینہ



## **Remembering the rental book shops in Karachi**

**SALEEM A KHANANI, DOW 85**

It used to be quite peaceful in the 60s. Kagzi Bazar was a small but busy street with a variety of businesses from aloo chola vendors, kulfi sellers, tea shops and cloth merchants to bookshops. There used to be quite a few bookshops including Abdul Razzaque Bookshop that sold school textbooks in addition to children's magazines like Taleem-o-Tarbiyat, Bacchon ki Dunya and Nonehal.

There was, however, a small bookshop that used to rent books and even old magazines for one to two aanas a day. The bookshop had no official name but it was owned by Suleman Bhai. His shop was in the middle of the Kagzi Bazar on the corner of a street that led to Bombay Bazar where the Bhatkal Hotel used to be. In front of it was a Malbari tea shop with just standing space.

The bookshop carried newspapers, Gujrati books, mystery magazines notably Ibn Safi's Imran series and Hameedi/Fareedi series, children's newspapers, Urdu novels by writers such as Razia Butt, Naseem Hijazi, Shaukat Thanvi and Azeem Baig Chughtai. My father frequented Suleman Bhai's bookshop on a regular basis, and introduced me to him. As a primary school student my favorite used to be small books published by Amin Brothers that contained the full transcript of Urdu movies released every Friday. If I remember, it used to cost about six aanas per volume. This was far cheaper than the ticket at the movie theater.

As I grew older, the Cricketer Pakistan, edited Riaz Mansoori made its debut in 1972. From 1973 to June 1992 when I migrated to the USA, I bought the magazine monthly from Suleman Bhai. He would keep a copy of the new issue hidden under his desk so that no one would sell it to anyone else in his absence.

I almost never missed the mystery novels by Ibn Safi that came on a monthly basis. After the death of Ibn Safi, there were no new mystery novels that satisfied my taste. But I continued to rent the older issues time and time again without being saturated. From time to time, Suleman Bhai would get some other good novels as well. The Ibn Safi masquerades like Ain Safi, Naghma Safi, Najma Safi, appeared and disappeared while Ibn Safi was incapacitated from writing for a few years. Their novels were but a poor imitation of the great master. I still remember that the first novel that Ibn Safi published after his recover in 1970 was called Paagloon ki Anjuman, the assembly of the lunatics.

In the early 90s Suleman Bhai's health started to deteriorate and he had a heart attack as well. However, he was back to his shop in no time. I said goodbye to him in June 1992 trying to hide my tears. When I visited Paskitan in 1995 I went to meet with him. To my great sadness, there was a teenager running the shop. He was Suleman Bhai's son. Suleman Bhai had passed away and the little boy did what many have to do in Karachi: step into the father's shoes at the expense of education to support their widowed mother and younger siblings!

## BOOKS EVERY WHERE ON THE STREETS OF KARACHI



THOMAS AND THOMAS





## یہ تحریر میری پہلی کتاب مجبوریاں کا دیباچہ ہے

ڈاکٹر اقبال ہاشمانی

اکثر لوگوں کا خیال ہے کہ ڈاکٹر اگر نسخہ ہی صحیح لکھ دے، یہی بہت ہے۔ ایسے میں اگر کوئی ڈاکٹر کالم، مزاح یا افسانوں جیسی بے مصرف چیزیں لکھنے لگے تو لوگوں کو حیرت سے زیادہ شک اور اس سے بھی بڑھ کر صدمہ ہونا فطری عمل ہے۔ جو لوگ میری تحریری پڑھتے ہیں یا جنہیں میرے اس شوق کا پتہ ہے انہیں اکثر شک سا لگتا ہے۔ وہ مجھ سے ایک سوال کرتے ہیں جو کسی سنگین مذاق سے کم نہیں ہوتا۔

”جناب آپ کو یہ فالتو چیزیں لکھنے کا وقت کیسے ملتا ہے۔“

شادی شدہ حضرات کو تو یہ کہہ کر ٹال دیا ہوں کہ بیوی بچوں کو چند روز کے لیے میکے بھجوا دیں۔ خود ہی پتہ چل جائے گا کہ وقت کیسے ملتا ہے۔ وقت کاٹنا تو ایک طرف رہا، خود وقت کاٹ کھانے کو دوڑے گا۔ البتہ غیر شادی شدہ لوگوں کو مطمئن کرنا ذرا مشکل ثابت ہوتا ہے کہ انہیں وقت کی اتنی قدر و قیمت نہیں۔ تمام دن موبائل فون سے چپکے رہتے ہیں۔ الغرض میرے دلائل کسی اور کو تو کیا خود مجھے بھی مطمئن نہیں کر سکتے۔ لہذا یہ طے ہے کہ ڈاکٹر کا نسخہ لکھنے کے علاوہ کچھ اور لکھنا اگر قانونی نہیں تو اخلاقی جرم ضرور ہے۔

میں، اقبال ہاشمانی، سکنہ کراچی، بیانگ دہل اعلان کرتا ہوں کہ میرا شوق ہی نہیں بلکہ کسی حد تک مجبوری بھی ہے۔ یوں تو میرا لکھنا بھی دیگر اخلاقی جراء مثلاً قرض یا ووٹ لینے، یا پھر گالی یا طلاق دینے کی مانند نہ ہی قابل دست اندازئی پولیس ہے اور نہ ہی تعزیرات پاکستان کی کسی دفعہ کی زد میں آتا ہے۔

میں عرض کر چکا ہوں کہ لکھنا میرا شوق ہی نہیں مجبوری بھی ہے۔ شوق کی تو خیر کوئی قیمت نہیں ہوتی۔ مجبوری یہ ہے کہ میں اپنے طو پر یہ خام خیالی رکھتا ہوں کہ اگر میں نہیں لکھوں گا تو اردو زبان کی ترویج و ترقی نہ صرف رُک جائے گی بلکہ ادب میں ایک بہت بڑا سا خلا پیدا ہو جائے گا۔ خصوصاً فکاہیہ ادب میں ہم جتنے پیچھے ہیں اتنے ہی اور پیچھے رہ جائیں گے، یعنی دگنا نقصان ہوگا۔ یہ میرا ذاتی خیال ہے، آپ کو اختلاف کا اختیار ہے۔

میری پیدائش پر، جو یقیناً کوئی اہم یا انہونا واقعہ ہرگز نہ تھا کہ وطن عزیز میں ہر منٹ پر پونے تین بچے پیدا ہوتے ہیں۔ اعداد و شمار اسی طرح پیش کیے جاتے ہیں۔ (میرے والد گرامی نے کہ جو ادبی ذوق کے حامل تھے اور حضرت علامہ اقبال کے معتقد تھے۔

انہوں نے حضرت علامہ اقبال کے نام نامی کی نسبت سے میرا نام بھی اقبال رکھا۔ غالباً وہ یہ سمجھتے تھے کہ نام کا اثر شخصیت پر ضرور ہوتا ہے۔ ادھر والدہ محترمہ کی خواہش تھی کہ میں بڑا ہو کر ڈاکٹر بنوں اور ملک و قوم کی خدمت کروں یا کم از کم

دیگر ڈاکٹروں کی طرح اپنی ہی خدمت کر لوں۔ ماں کی دعائوں کا ثمر یہ ملا کہ میں ڈاکٹر بن گیا اور ولاد صاحب کے نام کا اثر یہ ہو ا کہ شاعر تو نہیں البتہ نثر نگار بن گیا۔

کتابیں پڑھنے کا شوق پرائمری لیول ہی سے تھا۔ لکھنے کا مرض ساتویں جماعت میں لاحق ہوا۔ روزنامہ حریت کے بچوں کے صفحات میں ابن حسرت کے قلمی نام سے لکھنا

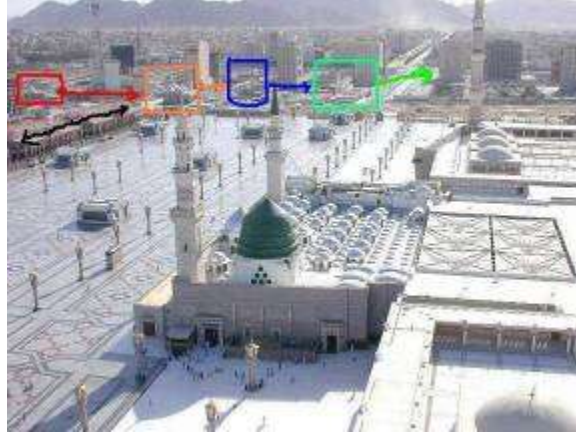
شروع کیا۔ دوستوں کا خیا لہے کہ میں اب بھی کچھ لکھ رہا ہوں وہ بچوں کے صفحات کی زینت بننے کے لیے لائق ہے۔ محض عمر کا لحاظ کرتے ہوئے بڑوں کے رسالوں میں ازراہ مروت شائع کیا جاتا ہے۔ قلمی نام رکھنے کی تین وجوہات تھیں۔ اول تو یہ کہ اس دور میں ابن قسم کے قلمی ناموں کا چلن نہ صرف کچھ زیادہ تھا بلکہ فیشن میں شامل تھا دوم یہ کہ والد مرحوم گجراتی زبان میں حسرت کے تخلص سے شاعری کیا کرتے تھے۔ عام قاعدہ کیہ ہے کہ بندہ پہلے شاعری کرتا ہے، پھر شاعری اسے کرنے لگتی ہے۔ لہذا جب کاروبار ٹھپ ہو گیا تو والدہ محترمہ نے جوابی شاعری بہ صنفِ قوالی نشر کرنا شروع کر دی۔ اس صورتحال نے والد صاحب کو اس نازک مقام پر لاکھڑا کیا کہ جہاں سوائے اس کے کوئی چارہ کار نہ رہتا کہ بندہ شاعری یا گھر ہستی میں سے کسی ایک کو ترک کر دے۔ والد صاحب چونکہ صلح جو قسم کے سمجھدار انسان تھے۔ اس لیے پہلی شئے کو خیر باد کہہ دیا۔ قلمی نام رکھنے کی تیسری اور غالباً سب سے معقول وجہ یہ تھی کہ میں ان دنوں ذرا کم عقل اور کم علم ہوا کرتا تھا۔ احبابانِ گرامی کا میرے بارے میں اب تک یہی نظریہ ہے۔

چونکہ وہ آوارہ گرد قسم کے مطالعے کا عادی تھا، جو کم از کم آوارہ گردی سے بہتر تھا۔ اس لیے جس قسم کی کتاب ہاتھ لگی اسے پڑھ ڈالا، اس شوق آوارگی نے کم از کم یہ فائدہ پہنچایا کہ میرے اندر ایک ذہنی ایچ پیدا کر دی۔ جس کا اعتراف اس وقت کے ایک معروف رسالے کے مدیر نے میری کہانی کو ناقابل اشاعت قرار دیتے ہوئے جوابی خط میں کیا۔ صحیح معنوں میں فکری بالیدگی اور ادبی نشوونما ڈائو میڈیکل کالج میں آکر ہوئی۔ اس زمانے میں یونیورسٹی اور کالج کا ماحول صحتمندانہ مشاغل کے لیے انتہائی سازگار تھا۔

خود میری کلاس میں ایسے کئی لوگ موجود تھے جو ادب سے بے پناہ لگائو رکھتے تھے۔ ڈاکٹر شیرشاہ، ڈاکٹر شہاب جاوید، ڈاکٹر ارجمند فیصل، ڈاکٹر شہناز انور شفاء وغیرہ سینئرز میں ڈاکٹر منظر سلیم، ڈاکٹر حامد ذکی اور ڈاکٹر شمیم آذر کے علاوہ اور بھی بہت سے ادب پرور لوگ تھے۔ جن میں سے کئی نام محض طوالت کے خوف سے تحریر نہیں کر رہا۔ اس کے علاوہ اساتذہ میں بھی کئی اچھا ادبی ذوق رکھتے تھے اور طلباء کی ادبی سرگرمیوں کو سراہتے تھے۔ مذکورہ افراد میں سے کچھ نے تو اب تک قلم سے رشتہ قائم رکھا ہے۔ بقیہ لوگوں نے قلم رکھ کر ہاتھوں میں نشتر تھام لیے ہیں اور قلم کا استعمال صرف نسخہ لکھنے کے لیے کرتے ہیں۔ گویا وہ قلم کی کھاتے ہیں اور میں قلم کو کھلاتا ہوں۔ کالج میں حصول علم کے ساتھ ادبی مشاغل بھی جاری رہے کہ کبھی کسی نوآموز کی شاعری کا پوسٹ مارٹم کر دیا تو کبھی کسی حسین مریضہ کو دیکھ کر غزل کہہ ڈالی۔ یار لوگوں نے کالج کے مجلہ، نمود سحر، میں صرف میری صلاحیتوں کا امتحان لینے کے لیے دو سال تک نائب مدیر بنا ڈالا۔ اس کے علاوہ دوستوں نے شاید کسی سازش کے تحت مجھ غریب کو مسلسل تین برسوں تک کالج کے مقابلہ نظم گوئی میں فاتحہ قرار دلو اکر شاعر بنانے کی بھرپور کوشش کی تھی۔ وہ تو کہیے کہ قسمت اچھی تھی کہ میری سیمابی فطرت شاعری کے بس میں نہ آئی۔ کچھ تلخ تجربہ والد مرحوم کی شاعری کے انجام کا بھی تھا سو میں نے شاعری سے کنارہ کشی اختیار کر لی۔ ایک لحاظ سے یہ اچھا ہی ہوا ورنہ میرا حال بھی کچھ بہتر نہ ہوتا اور حضرت



UMRAH MUBARAK TO ARJUMAND ASIF DOW 85  
JUNE 2013



مسجد نبوی کے جنوب میں چند میٹر کے فاصلے پر یہ چار مسجدیں بنی ہوئی ہیں جنکو میں نے چار مختلف رنگوں کے چوکور خانوں میں دیکھایا ہے - یہ چاروں مساجد اپنی جگہ انتہائی متبرک ہیں اور مدینہ میں آنے والے زائرین کے لیے انکی زیارت کچھ مشکل نہیں کیوں کہ یہ مسجد نبوی سے پیدل کے رستے پر ہیں جیسا کہ آپکو تصویر میں بھی نظر آ رہا ہے لیکن مناسب رہنمائی نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے زائرین انکی زیارت سے محروم رہ جاتے ہیں۔

نہ صرف یہ چاروں مساجد بلکہ یہ پورا علاقہ جہاں یہ چاروں مسجدیں موجود ہیں بہت متبرک ہے اور رسول اللہ ﷺ کی حیات مبارکہ سے جڑے بہت سے تاریخی واقعات نے اس پورے خطے کو متبرک بنا دیا ہے -

ان چاروں مساجد میں سب سے اہم مسجد نارنجی یعنی اورنج خانے میں نظر آ رہی ہے جس کا نام "مسجد غمامہ" ہے - یہ وہ متبرک مسجد ہے جہاں رسول اللہ ﷺ نے ایک مرتبہ سخت دھوپ میں جب مدینہ فحط کی صورت سے دو چار تھا اور انسانوں سمیت



جانور اور درخت تک سوکھ گئے تھے ، اللہ سبحان و تعالیٰ کی بارگاہ میں بارش کی دعا کی تھی تو دوران دعا بادل کا ایک ٹکڑا رسول اللہ ﷺ کے سر مبارک پر سایہ فگن ہو گیا تھا اور فوری طور سے مدینہ میں بارش شروع ہو گئی اور پورا مدینہ برا بھرا ہو گیا - اس واقعہ کے وقت آپ کے نو عمر نواسے سیدنا حسن رضی اللہ عنہ بھی آپ کے ساتھ تھے - اس واقعہ کی مناسبت سے اس مقام پر بنائی جانے والی اس مسجد کا نام " مسجد غمامہ " رکھا گیا کیوں کہ عربی میں غمامہ " بادل " کو کہتے ہیں -

اس کے علاوہ اس مقام پر رسول اللہ ﷺ نے عید کی نمازیں بھی پڑھی ہیں اور قربانی کے اونٹ اور بھیڑیں بھی نحر یعنی قربان کی ہیں -

مسجد غمامہ کے مقام پر آپ ﷺ نے حبشہ کے بادشاہ " نجاشی " جو رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے بہت محبت کرتا تھا اور دائرۂ اسلام میں داخل ہو چکا تھا ، کی موت کی خبر بھی اسی دن لوگوں کو دی جس دن اسکا انتقال ہوا حالانکہ اس وقت کمیونیکیشن کے کوئی ذرائع نہ تھا - اور آپ ﷺ نے اسی مقام پر نجاشی کی نماز جنازہ پڑھائی تھی -

رسول مکرم سیدنا محمد ﷺ جب کسی سفر سے مدینہ منورہ واپس پہنچتے تھے تو آپ اس مقام سے گذرتے ہوئے قبلہ رخ ہو کر اللہ کریم سے دعائیں مانگتے تھے -

اس تصویر میں آپکو ایک براؤن عمارت بھی نظر آرہی ہے جس پر میں نے وضاحت کے لیے ایک کالے رنگ کا خط ( یعنی لائن ) کھینچ دیا ہے - یہ دراصل وہ مقام ہے جہاں رسول اللہ ﷺ نے پہلا اسلامی بازار قائم کیا تھا جو یہودیوں کے پہلے سے موجود بازاروں کے مقابل بنایا گیا تھا تاکہ مسلمان اپنی تعلیمات کے مطابق تجارت کر سکیں - اس اولین اسلامی بازار کا نام رسول اللہ ﷺ نے " مناکہ " رکھا تھا - یہ بازار آج بھی جدید تقاضوں کے ساتھ اپنی جگہ موجود ہے جیسا کہ آپکو تصویر میں نظر آ رہا ہے -

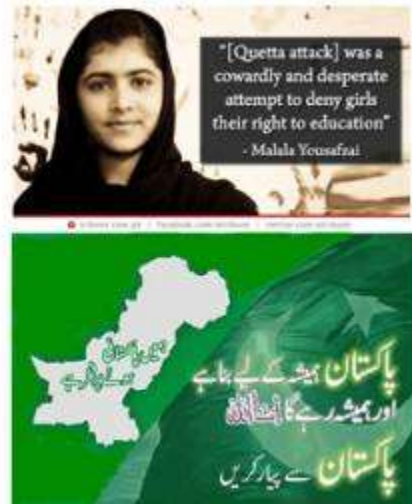
رسول اللہ ﷺ کے اس دنیا فانی سے پردہ فرمانے کے بعد خلفائے راشدین نے بھی ان مقامات پر رسول اللہ ﷺ کی سنت کی پیروی کرتے ہوئے وہ سب افعال کیے جو رسول اللہ ﷺ یہاں کیا کرتے تھے اور اس لیے انہوں نے مسجد غمامہ کے ارد گرد اپنے قیام گاہیں بنائیں جو یادگار کے طور پر آج بھی موجود ہے -

لال چوکور خانے میں جو مسجد نظر آرہی ہے وہ " مسجد عمر " ہے جبکہ نیلے چوکور خانے میں " مسجد ابو بکر صدیق " ہے اور برے رنگ کے خانے میں " مسجد علی " نمایاں ہے -

## QUETTA ATTACK JUNE 15, 2013

### سید رضی مجدد

ایک شکرے کے جواب میں  
اسے کہنا کہ ہم اتنی وفا کر ہی نہیں پائے  
نہ اتنا پیار دے پائے  
کہ جتنا چاہتے تھے  
اور اس کا حق بھی بنتا تھا  
اسے کہنا کہ پھر بھی گرد بکھری داستانوں میں  
وفاؤں کی، محبت کی  
مثالیں جتنی ملتی ہیں  
ہمارے دل میں اس کا پیار ان سب ہی سے بڑھ کر ہے  
اسے کہنا کہ جب کوئی کسی کے گھر کو اپنے اور اپنے بھول سے بچوں سے  
اک جنت بنا دے  
تو اس کے پیار کا قرضہ کوئی کیسے اتارے گا؟  
اسے کہنا ہماری سانس میں اتنی وفائیں اور محبت  
گو پہاڑوں سے بھی اونچی اور سمندر سے بھی گہری ہیں  
مگر بچوں کی صورت میں جو نعمت اس کے ذریعے سے ہمارے گھر میں اتنی  
بے  
وہ اتنی ہے کہ جس کا بدلہ کوئی دے نہیں سکتا  
اسے کہنا  
کبھی ایسا بھی ہوتا ہے کہ لفظوں کے کھلاڑی  
اپنی ہی حالت بیان کرنے سے قاصر ہوں  
اسے کہنا کہ یہ کم مائیگی جو مرد کی قسمت میں لکھی ہے  
اسے اپنی وفا کی اورٹھنی کے پلو میں مستور کر لے  
اسے کہنا کہ ہم کو معاف کر دے  
اور محبت اور وفا کو ناپے اور تولے بنا منظور کر لے



**GRAMMAR**

**My grammar and I  
Or should it be  
My grammar and me  
My grammar is unique  
It revolves around U  
I know the rules say  
I before E  
(Except C)  
My grammar says  
I before U  
( No Exceptions!)**  
**The grammar of Love is so simple  
Revolves around letters I and U  
And I loves U  
Ah! The grammar of love  
The love of grammar  
The thrill of love  
A lovely thrill**

“It is very useful, when one is young, to learn the difference between "literally" and "figuratively." If something happens literally, it actually happens; if something happens figuratively, it feels like it is happening.

If you are literally jumping for joy, for instance, it means you are leaping in the air because you are very happy. If you are figuratively jumping for joy, it means you are so happy that you could jump for joy, but are saving your energy for other matters.”

– Lemony Snicket, *The Bad Beginning*



“A man's grammar, like Caesar's wife, should not only be pure, but above suspicion of impurity.”

– Edgar Allan Poe

“Trevor realized that the odd thing about English is that no matter how much you screw sequences word up up, you understood, still, like Yoda, will be. Other languages don't work that way. French? *Dieu!* Misplace a single *le* or *la* and an idea vaporizes into a sonic puff. English is flexible: you can jam it into a Cuisinart for an hour, remove it, and meaning will still emerge.”

– Douglas Coupland, *Generation A*

## **Jews: The lost tribe of Karachi**

**Sohail Ansari, DMC 1983**

**(The author has drawn from multiple sources)**

Pakistan was not traditionally anti-Semitic. In fact, Pakistan hosted small Jewish communities from the 19th century until the end of the 1960s and the largest of that community lived in Karachi. They were of various origins. Most of their ancestors had migrated to Karachi from Persia and the native language for this group, known as Bene Israel, was Judeo-Marathi. In the 19th century, Bene Israel migrated from the western part of Maharashtra to nearby cities, chiefly Bombay, but also Poona, Ahmadabad and Karachi. About a century ago, the Iranian Jews exported carpets to central Asia. The Soviet Union closed its borders to them in the 1920's and that is when a number of them moved their base of operation to Karachi. Working as commission agents, they brought carpets from Iran for further transportation to merchants in London. Jewish families in Karachi lived mainly in the areas of Ranchore Line, Ramswamy and Soldier Bazar. There used to be a kosher slaughterhouse as well. They spoke Urdu language in dealing with local people. Relations between the Jewish community and others in Karachi were harmonious till 1948. The history of Jews living in Karachi is neither preserved nor remembered in Karachi today.



In 1881, there were 153 Jews residing in Sindh. According to Aitken's Gazetteer of the Province of Sindh, there were 428 Jews in the census of 1901 and those nearly all were in Karachi. Many of them belonged to Bene Israel who observed Sephardic Jewish rites and were believed to have settled in India shortly after the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus. Their number rose to 650 in 1919. A government census of 1941 recorded 1,199 Jews.

During the British era, they were a small but vibrant community of Karachi. Young Man's Jewish Association was founded in 1903 and Karachi Jewish Syndicate was established in 1918. The All India Israelite League, which represented 650 Bene Israel living in the province of Sindh was first convened – founded by two prominent Bene Israel, Jacob Bapuji Israel and David S Erulkar. Karachi became a fulcrum for the Bene



Israel in India, the place where they congregated for High Holiday prayers. In addition, the Karachi Bene Israel Relief Fund was established to support poor Jews in Karachi.



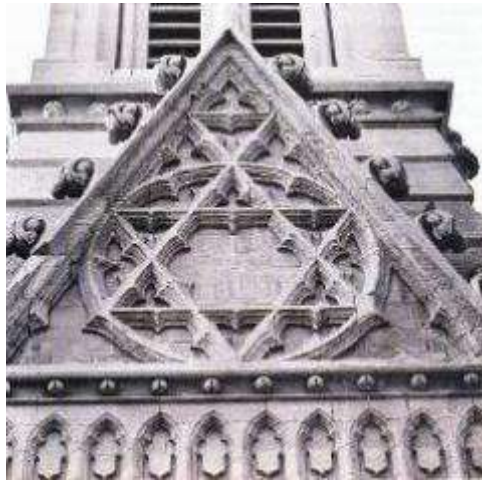
Records of Jewish presence are found in various historic documents of Colonial rule. For example, J.W. Smyth records in “Gazetteer of the province of Sindh, Karachi district,” about education schools in Karachi:

*The number on the rolls in the English branch in March 1916 was 350, nearly all being Mahomedans, though some Hindus and a few Jews are admitted... St Patrick’s school was started in 1861 by the Reverend J. Wily, Roman Catholic chaplain, as a mixed school for boys and girls, and was conducted in his own quarters... A few Hindus, Mussalmans, Parsis and Jews attend...*

*The origin of the Church Mission High School was a private school started by Major Preedy, collector of Karachi, long before government moved in the matter of education. The number on the roll in March 1916 was 417, of whom 256 were Hindus, 77 Brahmins, 32 Jains, 35 Mussalmans, nine native Christians, two Parsis and **six Jews**... The number of students in the arts branch [of the Dayaram Jethmal Sind College] in 1915-16 was 268, of whom 181 were Hindus, nine Brahmins, 38 Mahomedans, 19 Parsis, 18 Europeans and Eurasians and **two Jews**.”*

Prominent among the Jews during the Raj were Simon Wyse who ran the Great Western Hotel and Marder who owned Killarney Hotel Marder’s Palace. Thus, two of the best hotels of the city were owned and managed by the Jews. Moses Somake was the architect who gave the city some of the beautiful buildings. Abraham Reuben, was elected to the post of councillor of the Karachi City Corporation in 1919. David Solomon was the

surveyor and member of Karachi Municipal Corporation. If you look in the middle of the Mereweather Tower, Star of David can be seen engraved on it, set in stone.



Just before the independence (in 1947), an estimated 2000 – 2500 Jews resided in Karachi; 200 of them decided to migrate to India on the division of the subcontinent and most of the remaining went that way in 1948. There were subsequent immigrations to Europe and Israel. By 1953 only about 500 Jews left in Pakistan. Another account describes the number of 400 Jewish people living in Karachi in 1959. By 1968, their number in Pakistan had decreased to 250, almost all of whom were concentrated in Karachi, where there was one synagogue, a welfare organization, and a recreational organization. There were only 10 – 13 families left by 1972. The Jewish wife of an Australian Diplomat to Pakistan is said to have helped the members of the tiny Jewish community in the 1970s to migrate to Israel. She used to look after their needs for Kosher supplies including wine. She also took the records of the Synagogue and later gave those to a library in Jerusalem.



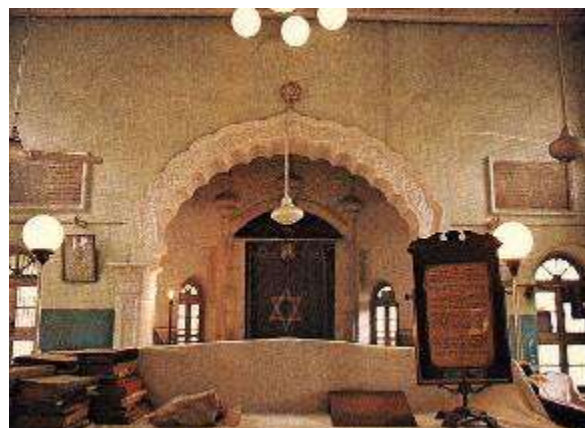


There were two famous Jewish cabaret artistes who performed at the Roma Shabana Nightclub in the 1970's. They were Deborah and Suzie known as Daniel sisters.

In 2005, the front page of the Jerusalem Post featured a boxed item headlined 'Surprise! There are still Jews in Pakistan.' This story was triggered by an email sent to the newspaper's online edition in a Reader's Response section by one Ishaac Moosa Akhir who introduced himself thus: *"I am a doctor at a local hospital in Karachi, Pakistan. My family background is Sephardic Jewish and I know approximately 10 Jewish families who have lived in Karachi for 200 years or so. Just last week was the Bar Mitzvah of my son Dawod Akhir."*

However, very recently (in 2013) according to the Election Commission of Pakistan, there are around 800 Jewish voters registered in Pakistan. It is believed that those few Jews remaining in Karachi conceal their real identity to avoid any atrocities and show disguised as Christians or Parsees wearing Shalwar Kameez as the local attire.

### Magain Shalome Synagogue





The construction of the Synagogue was an evidence Karachi's diversity and tolerance in those days, whereas, its destruction epitomized parochialism and intolerance prevalent now. Magen Shalome Synagogue was built in Ranchore Lines on Lawrence Road (now Nishtar Road - at corner of Jamila Street) in 1893, by Shalome Solomon Umerdekar and further extended by his sons Gershon Solomon Umerdekar and Rahamim Solomon Umerdekar. It was officially opened in 1912. The synagogue soon became the epicentre of activity for the small Jewish community. A community hall named "Shegulbai Hall" was built by Abraham Reuben Kamerlekar in memory of Shegulabai Solomon Umerdekar. In 1916-18 the Karachi Jewish community opened a Hebrew school on the synagogue premises and in 1918 constructed the Nathan Abraham Hall.

There is a road in Ramswamy neighborhood of Karachi, named after the founder of Magen Shalome, Solomon David Road (also called Suleman Dawood Road).

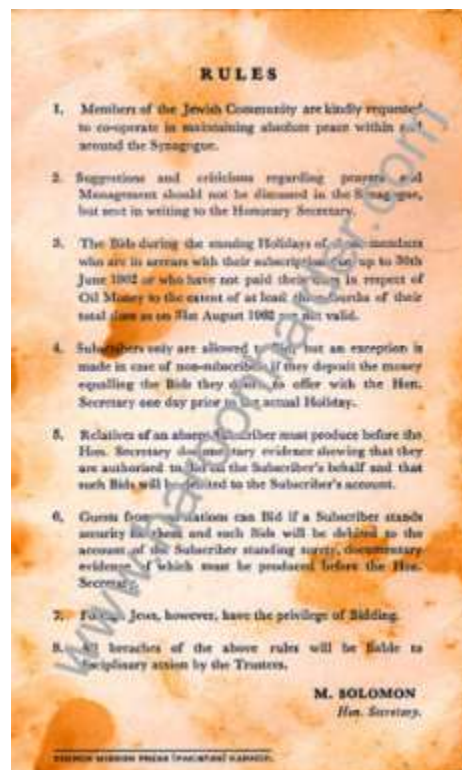


Other accounts suggest that it was built by Solomon David, a surveyor for the Karachi Municipality and his wife Sheeoolabai (although these may be different names for the same person). The gravestone of Solomon David is said to read, "Very well-known and highly regarded Solomon David always wanted a liberal Jewish community, through his own expense built a fine synagogue, Magen Shalome.

The name Magen Shalom was given by an Indian Jewish Scholar, Samuel Ezekiel Talker who moved to Karachi and was instrumental in enlarging and rebuilding the synagogue. He served as *hazzan* and trained several assistants in order that "the eternal light should be kept burning continuously and eternally." Talker was buried in Karachi. Following independence of Pakistan, the synagogue was called by locals as 'Bani Israel Masjid'. It was set on fire in 1948 (but survived) when several Jews were also attacked. It

became dormant in the 1960s and was demolished by property developers on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1988, by order of Zia ul Haq to make way for a commercial building to house a shopping mall (Madiha Square). In 1989, the original ark and podium were stored in Karachi; a Torah scroll case was taken by an American to the United States. In 2004 synagogue registers covering the period 1961-1976 were donated to the Ben-Zvi Institute Library in Jerusalem. In these ledgers, a circumcision was recorded in 1963 and several weddings in 1963-4. In 1973 only 15 names were written down, of whom nine were listed as “left Karachi”.

The Jewish community of Pakistan donated two silver Kiddush glasses from Magain Shalome Synagogue to the Museum of the International Synagogue at John F. Kennedy Airport



The last custodian of the synagogue was Rachel Joseph who was an elderly frail retired school teacher. She claimed that the property developers had promised her and her brother Ifraheem Joseph an apartment in the new building, and also space for a small synagogue. Unfortunately, both Ifraheem and Rachel Joseph passed away before they received any compensation. She felt that she was swindled and tried her best (unsuccessfully) to move a court to get what she was promised. However, she managed to muster some support to build public opinion and in 2003, Kunwar Khalid Yunus wrote a



moving letter to daily Dawn pleading that she should be helped. Rachel Joseph, died on 17 July 2006 at the age of 90 years and her brother died about a decade before her.

### Graveyard

Around 40 to 50 graves of Jewish people are found in the area situated in the limits of Cutchi Memon graveyard.

Mewashah Graveyard close to Lyari river is the largest graveyard in the city and has also been used by various communities for the burial of their dead bodies including besides various sects of Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Bahaies and others. Legend has it that a saint, Syed Abdul Kabir (1715-1865), took up residence in Karachi. Since he used to distribute among his devotees all the fruit he received from his admirers, he came to be known as Mewashah and had a large following.

A few paces away from the tomb of Baba Zaheen Shah Taji in the Mewashah graveyard, one can find a nondescript steel door marked with the Magen David (shield of David, or as it is more commonly known, the Star of David). The Jewish cemetery in Mewa Shah graveyard bears the scripts, written in Hebrew and English languages, which are still visible but various alphabets have been effaced due to natural factors. The boundary wall has also been demolished and it is in a dilapidated state. There are nearly 5,000 graves at this cemetery which is also called the Bani Israel cemetery. Many are broken and the site is adorned by the nettles and thorns. There has hardly been any burial here since 1980s. Jewish cemetery is around 145 years old. The care taker remembered Rachel Joseph visiting the graveyard regularly.



Entrance to the old Jewish Cemetery in Karachi

A Muslim Pakistani-American filmmaker based in California, Shoieb Yunus, shot a very brief documentary film about this Jewish cemetery in Mewashah. This film titled 'Cemetery of the lost tribe' is available on Youtube and can be accessed using the following links:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyOb\\_I2vQQY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyOb_I2vQQY) and <http://vimeo.com/13414007>

**When I Count My Blessings.....**  
**Mahwash Gaba Dow 1985**

When our son was very young he went on a school trip and on return got his father a fridge magnet which said 'When I count my blessings I count you twice'.

This fridge magnet has since reminded me of all the blessings that have been bestowed on me by Almighty. Amongst those, top of the list are my parents.

I know that I have been blessed with the two best human beings in the form of my parents who not just did what they could for their children; they actually went out of their way so our lives were accomplished. They did not just tell us the difference between right and wrong they modelled this for us by conducting themselves in a way that could not be ignored. They were my true friends who never let me down and accepted me with all my shortcomings. In fact, they made us all feel that we were 'special'. I owe everything good in my life to my parents' guidance, support and unconditional love.

I am also blessed with a handsome, kind, loving and respectful son, Kamran. He completed his MBChB from Edinburgh University, almost a year ago and is now working in Oxford completing his foundation years training. Kamran was and has always been a pleasure since he arrived in this world and has been the best gift from Allah SWT, Alhamdulillah. I thank my Creator every day for giving me the best set of parents and an adorable son who is a wonderful human being with great principles in life. I would humbly request all my D85 family to pray for my fragile parents so their life becomes easier for them and also for my son that he continues to get Divine guidance from Allah SWT so that he remains a source of contentment for his parents and others who will become a part of his life in the future, Ameen!



## DAUGHTERS ARE SPECIAL

On the first day of their marriage, wife and husband decided and agreed not to open the door for anyone! On that day first, husband's parents came to see them, they were behind the door. Husband and the wife looked at each other, husband wanted to open the door, but since they had an agreement he did not open the door, so his parents left. After a while the same day, wife's parents came, wife and the husband looked at each other and even though they had an agreement, wife with tears on her eyes whispered, I can't do this to my parents, and she opened the door. Husband did not say anything, years passed and they had 4 boys and the fifth child was a girl. The father, planned a very big party for the new born baby girl, and he invited everyone over. Later that night his wife asked him what was the reason for such a big celebration for this baby while we did not do it for the others! The husband simply replied, because she is the one who will open the door for me!

Daughters are always so special!



**TWO SPECIAL DOW 85 FATHERS KHALID SALEEM AND FAYYAZ AHMED SHEIKH  
AND TWO VERY SPECIAL MOTHERS MEHER AND SHAHEENA**



# **PRACTICE OF NEUROSURGERY IN SAUDI ARABIA**

*By  
Inayat Ali Khan Dow 1985*

The Kingdom has been spending and investing heavily on its healthcare system allocating an unprecedented 11 percent of the budget which is second only to the education sector that takes away the major bulk.

Until the 1970s there were not many hospitals seen around the kingdom and it was during the 70s that they decided to go big time and hence started taking major leaps targeted to provide full healthcare facilities to all their citizens to obviously cover emergencies, disabilities, old age and home medical programs.

The chain of hospitals include those in the ministry of health, that take the lead, shared by other autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies which include the Military medical services (both the Armed forces and Security forces), Royal commission, teaching hospitals attached to Medical colleges that come under the Ministry of education, National Guards hospitals, Airbase and Naval base hospitals and finally Specialised Institutes which include Eye hospitals, Cardiology institutes, Centres for Renal diseases and transplantation, Maternity and Child health hospitals and the Centres of Excellence. They also have a chain of various Rehabilitation centres.

A network of Government dispensaries are spread around the country providing all aspects of basic health care and a very strong and well established Immunization program.

The Eastern Province is the largest province of KSA with Dammam as its capital and being the third largest city in the country followed by Riyadh and Jeddah. Like Rawalpindi and Islamabad, Dammam too has a twin city 25 km away called Khobar.



**One of the several towers within the Medical  
Complex**



I remember when I joined the ministry more than a decade ago I was then the first Pakistani Neurosurgeon to do so. Dammam Medical Complex is the final drainage point to entire Eastern province. The hospital's Neurosurgery department is well equipped with up to 45 beds and sometimes exceeding the limits in case of emergencies with a good ICU back up. The operating room stays busy the whole year round with an average of 450 cases a year. It is equipped with 2 state-of-the-art microscopes, neuro-navigation system, Cusa (Cavitron ultrasonic Surgical Aspirator) that sucks out tumors in less time than when it is done conventionally, ICP monitors, neuro-endoscopes, stereotactic facilities, Mayfield's head rest, cranial snake retractors, spinal frames and a full range of neurosurgical instrumentation system to choose from (both cranial and spinal). We have a long range of spinal fixation systems to choose from (mainly Aesculap and Codman) that caters to all our spinal instrumentation and metal fixation needs and are purely Titanium and hence MRI compatible, we also have artificial cervical disc implants that helps to reinforce the gap created by discectomies and does not sacrifice joint movement. Recently added to our paraphernalia are the skull-plating systems and Stryker's spinal table.

Unfortunately we still lack some advanced facilities like intra-operative brain mapping and intra-operative neurophysiological monitoring, epilepsy surgery facilities, vagus nerve stimulation, deep brain stimulation and lesion making like is done for Parkinsonism and other movement disorders. We are obliged to cover emergencies and other related conditions in the Pediatric age group at the Maternity and Child Hospital (MCH) which is about 3 km away from our center. Spinal dysraphisms, hydrocephalus, craniosynostosis and trauma (including child abuse) constitute the major bulk of Pediatric neurosurgery. However, the head and spinal trauma cases consume the major bulk of services at our department, followed by degenerative disc diseases (both lumbar and cervical), intracerebral hypertensive clots and other spontaneous hemorrhages. We've been involved in a lot of peripheral nerve and brachial plexus surgeries and thoracotomies (for anterior spinal cord decompression and fixation) and hence helping with Allah's grace to allow paraplegics and paraparetics to return to normal or near normal walking (where possible) and these two fields also happen to be my fields of interest as well.

The **Department of Radiology** is laced well with CT scans including CT angiography, MRI with MRA and MRV facilities, DEXA (Dual Energy X-ray Absorpsiometry) and other nuclear scan facilities, DSA (Digital Subtraction Angiography) and now the days of X-ray films are over and as in the rest of the world we too have for the last few years PACS (Picture archiving and Communication System) that enables electronic storage and access from any point in the hospital.

The **Department of Histopathology** do routine biopsies and IHC (immuno histochemistry) and help us in frozen section biopsies as well.

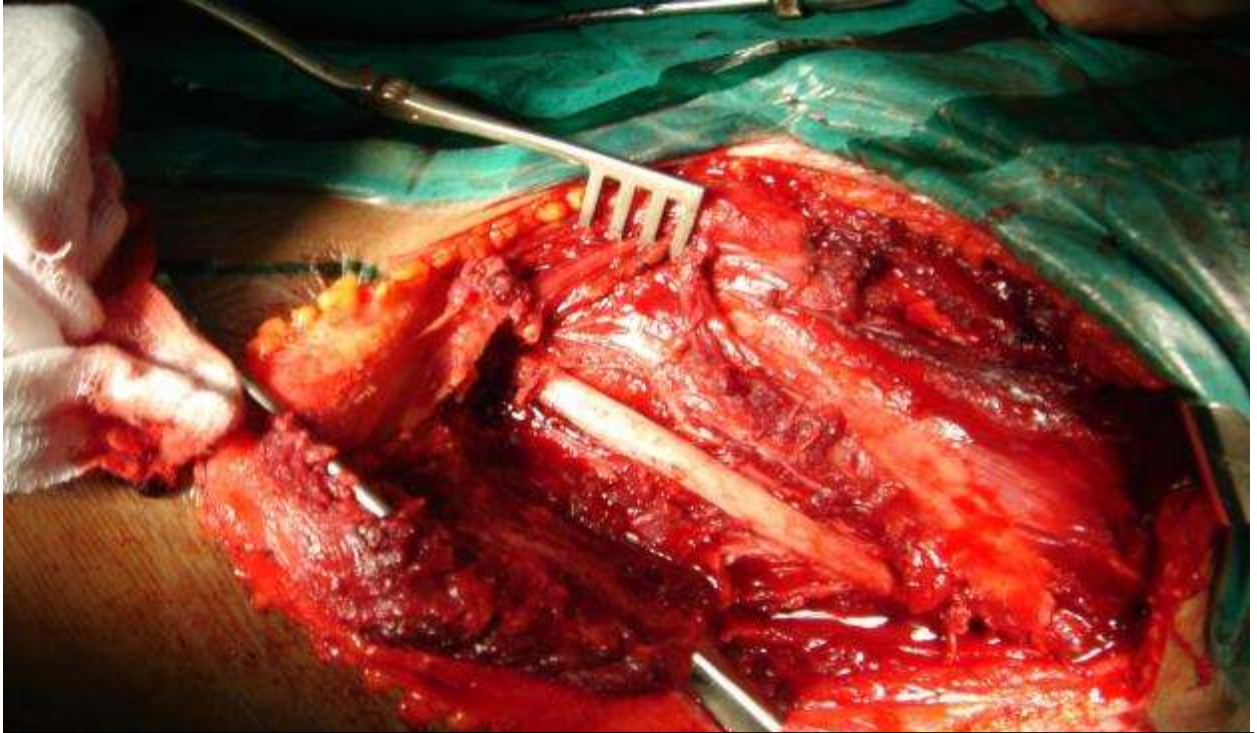




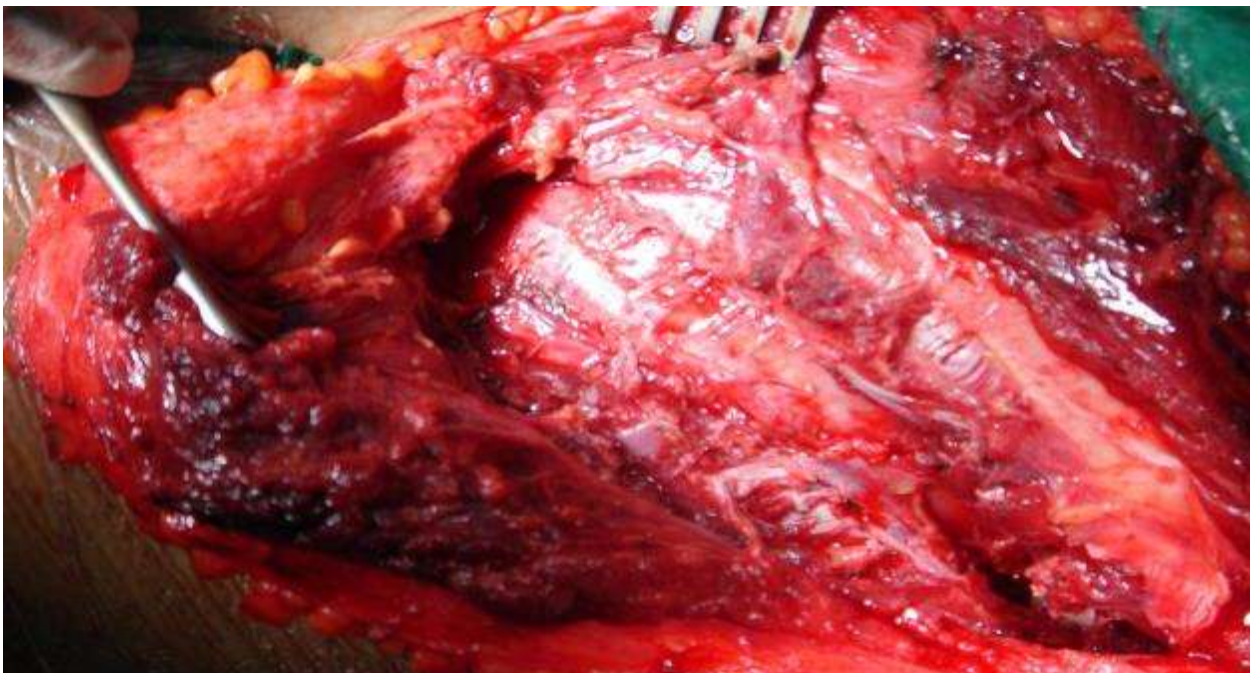
**CT of the Dorsolumbar spine: (sagittal view) 26 years old, victim of RTA with a Thoracic 11 burst fracture, almost 99 % canal compromise and complete paraplegia**



**Same patient with Thoracic 11 (T 11) fracture, fully positioned for a Thoracotomy and Anterior decompression**



**Thoracotomy with rib exposure, a skill which I had developed at Civil Hospital Karachi.**

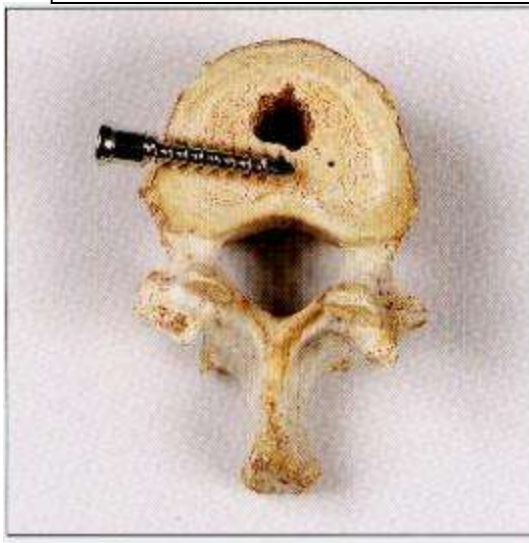


**Rib resection done**

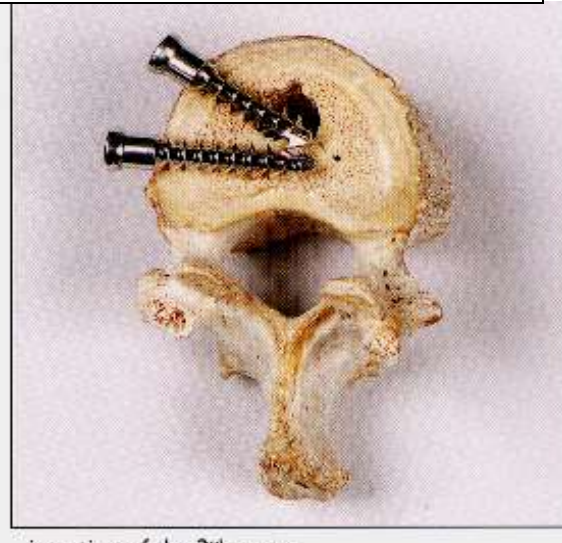




**Thoracic cavity opened and dome of the Diaphragm can be seen**



Placement of **first** screw



Placement of **second** screw

Such surgeries usually take several hours (6-8 hours on the average) and I used to end up with a stiff back myself. Young age group disabilities (mostly traumatic paraplegics) constitute a significant percentage with billions being spent on their rehabilitation. The highest number of patients are within the 18-30 years bracket.

After incessant efforts the department was finally approved by the Saudi Council for Health Sciences (equivalent to Pakistan's PMDC) for 3 years (out of 5 years) training period in Neurosurgery, while the remaining 2 years will have to be covered in another recognized hospital. I already have an FCPS trainee under me after fighting a long battle with CPSP and after completing a long list of CPSPs requirements

**Iftikhar Hussain Arif - افتخار حسين عارف**

MAHWASH GABA DOW 85

Commonly known as Iftikhar Arif (افتخار عارف) is an Urdu poet, scholar and littérateur from Pakistan. His style is romantic Urdu poetry. He has headed Academy Adbiyat, the Pakistan Academy of Letters and currently, he is the Chairman of Muqtadra Quami Zaban, the National Language Authority. He has been decorated with Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz and Presidential Pride of Performance, highest literary awards by Government of Pakistan.

### **Early Days and Education**

Iftikhar Arif was born in Lucknow in 1943 and lived there till his migration to Pakistan in 1965. During this period he received his education at the Lucknow University where one of his teachers was Ehtisham Husain. He obtained a M.A. from the Lucknow university.

### **Career**

Iftikhar Arif came to Pakistan in 1965 and soon thereafter won fame not just on account of his poetry, but also for his performance in the programme Kasauti, along with Obaidullah Baig on Pakistan Television.

Coming to Pakistan and settling in Karachi, Iftikhar Arif started his career as a Radio Pakistan newscaster.

He teamed up with Obaidullah Baig and won the Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) quiz show of the 1970s, Kasouti. Later, he spent 13 years in England working for the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) -sponsored Urdu Markaz. Coming back to Pakistan, he worked first as head of the National Language Authority (Muqtadara Qaumi Zaban), and then as chairman of the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) and presently he is working again as a chairman of National Language Authority (Muqtadara Qaumi Zaban).

### **Works and Achievements**

Iftikhar Arif is a poet of Urdu. Three of his collections, Mehr-i-Doneem, Harf-i-Baryab and Jahan-e-Maloom have been published in many editions. In the introduction to the first book, Faiz Ahmed Faiz says that he has not only found traces of Meer and Ghalib in Iftikhar's poetry but also of Firaq Gorakhpuri and Noon Meem Rashid. Tributes have also been paid to him by such persons as Annemarie Schimmel, Mumtaz Mufti, Meerza Adeeb, Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi, Mushtaq Ahmad Yusufi, Anna Suvarova and Upinder Nath Ashk. Prof Mujtaba Husain feels that "Iftikhar Arif's poetry has the dash and pomp of Aatish and Yagana but he is without their aggression."

The Oxford University Press has selected a portion of Iftikhar Arif's poetry and had it translated into English. The collection has been published under the title, Written in the Season of Fear. The introduction to the book was written by Harris Khalique, a poet in English, Urdu and Punjabi.

Arif's poetry has been translated into a number of languages, including English, Russian, German, Persian, Hindi and Bhasha. A recording company has released a Pakistan Television Production of ghazals titled "Chup Durya" containing poems by Iftikhar Arif rendered by a number of prominent Pakistani singers, including Malka-i-Mooseeqi, the late Roshan Ara Begum, the late Madame Noor Jehan and Iqbal Bano etc.

جہان معلوم

حرف بریاب  
بارہواں کھلاڑی

مہر دو نیم  
کتاب دل و دنیا

Some of his works which I have enjoyed are presented below:

روش میں گردش سیارگاں سے اچھی ہے  
روش میں گردش سیارگاں سے اچھی ہے  
ز میں کہیں کی بھی ہو آماں سے اچھی ہے  
جو حرف حق کی حمایت میں ہو وہ گمانی  
ہزار وضع کے نام و نشان سے اچھی ہے  
عجب نہیں کل اسی کی زبان کھینچی جائے  
جو کہہ رہا ہے خوشی زباں سے اچھی ہے  
بس ایک خوف کہیں دل یہ بات مان نہ جائے  
یہ خاک غیر غمیں ہمیں آشیاں سے اچھی ہے  
ہم ایسے گل زدگاں کو بہار یک ساعت  
نگار خانہ عہد خزاں سے اچھی ہے  
افتخار عارف

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مرے خدا مجھے اتنا تو معتبر کر دے  
میں جس مکان میں رہتا ہوں اس کو گھر کر دے  
یہ روشنی کے تعاقب میں بھاگتا ہو دن  
جو تھک گیا ہے تو اب اس کو مختصر کر دے  
میں زندگی کی دعا مانگنے لگا ہوں بہت  
جو ہو سکے تو دعاؤں کو بے اثر کر دے  
ستارہ سحری ڈوبنے کو آیا ہے  
ذرا کوئی میرے سورج کو باخبر کر دے  
مری زمیں ، مرا آخری حوالہ ہے  
سو میں رہوں نہ رہوں اس کر بارور کر دے  
میں اپنے خواب سے کٹ کر جیوں تو میرا خدا  
اجاڑ دے مری مٹی کو در بدر کر دے

مجھ رہے ہیں اور بولنے کا یارا نہیں  
جو ہم سے مل کے بچھڑ جائے وہ ہمارا نہیں  
سمندروں کو بھی حیرت ہوئی کہ ڈوبتے وقت  
کسی کو ہمنے مدد کے لیے پکارا نہیں  
جو ہم نہیں تھے تو پھر کون تھا سر بازار  
جو کہہ رہا تھا کہ بکنا ہمیں گوارہ نہیں  
ابھی سے برف الجھنے لگی ہے بالوں سے  
ابھی تو قرض ماہ و سال بھی اتارا نہیں  
ہم اہل دل ہیں محبت کی نسبتوں کے امیں  
ہمارے پاس زمینوں کا گوشوارہ نہیں

دیار نور میں تیرا شیوہ ---

دیار نور میں تیرا شیوہ کا ساتھی ہو  
کوئی تو ہو جو مری وحشتوں کا ساتھی ہو  
میں اس کے ہاتھ نہ آؤں وہ میرا ہو کے رہے  
میں گر پڑوں تو مری پستیوں کا ساتھی ہو  
وہ خواب دیکھے تو دیکھے مرے حوالے سے  
مرے خیال کے سب منظروں کا ساتھی ہو  
میں اس سے جھوٹ بھی بولوں وہ مجھ سے سچ بولے  
مرے مزاج کے سب موسموں کا ساتھی ہو  
وہ میرے نام کی نسبت سے معتبر ٹھہرے  
گلی گلی مری رسوائیوں کا ساتھی ہو  
میں اپنے آپ کو دیکھوں وہ مجھ کو دیکھے جائے  
وہ میرے نفس کی گراہیوں کا ساتھی ہو

افتخار عارف



## Feeding Food Insecure- The Story of Memphis Halal Food Pantry

Nadeem Zafar Dow 1985

As Americans and Muslims we are well aware of the need and the mandate to feed the food insecure. The Blessings associated with feeding the hungry are well known. In Ramadan the Muslims actively feed the hungry. The need for food however does not end with Ramadan, thanksgiving or Christmas! Before coming to the US, we were not aware that this is not a land of milk and honey for everyone and there are numerous pockets of hunger in many parts of US. And while a handful of food pantries are run by Muslim organizations, none of them are affiliated with the Feeding America network- the network that helps run food banks across USA. In fact, most of us do not even know the difference between a food bank and food pantry- the terms are thus used interchangeably by many.

At the APPNA summer meeting in Washington DC in 2012, the members of the Pakistani American community of Memphis discussed the need for setting up the first halal food pantry in Mid-South USA, in Memphis-TN. One of the community members, Nadeem Zafar, is a member of the board at Midsouth Food Bank (which served 12.1 Million pounds of food to 31 counties in 3 mid-southern states in 2012-2013) advised to set up the food pantry in the most financially challenged part of town at the local masjid. The concept was shared with the imam at Masjid Al-Muminun, the masjid that predominantly serves the African-American Muslims. The concept was very well received by the board of directors of the Masjid and it was agreed that the masjid will host the pantry and will work to have it affiliated with the Mid-South Food Bank. The affiliation process is essentially an accreditation process, whereby the food bank ensures, through inspection and paperwork, that the pantry has adequate facilities to serve food and food handling training has been received by volunteers. In addition, the food bank wants evidence of commitment that the pantry has resources to sustain itself. The food banks do not directly distribute food to recipients but galvanizes the greater community to procure food or funds for the indigent, which in turn are used to procure food from farmers and suppliers at discounted rates to be distributed through food pantries and soup kitchens. In essence, every \$1 that Mid-South Food Bank receives transforms into \$4 worth of food for distribution through pantries. The pantries procure such food from the food bank at deeply discounted rates (around 1/10 the cost) allowing pantry resources to get much further.

The halal pantry was formally established in September of 2012, and was affiliated with Mid-South Food Bank in October 2013. By having this affiliation, the Halal Food Pantry at Masjid Al Mu'minun in Memphis has become the first ever halal food pantry in US that is a part of the Feeding America Network. By being an affiliate of the Midsouth-Food Bank, the pantry is able to procure frozen fish, vegetables (fresh and canned but pork-free) and fresh fruits at deeply discounted rates. The pantry now serves around 50 families per month, every last Saturday of the month. The food provided is for a month's duration and complements the other food benefits these families receive through other federal and state programs such as SNAP and WIC. The frozen halal chicken is procured from local vendors as a part of nutritionally balanced diet. The pantry now also provides home-cooked hot soup to the recipients on the day of the pantry and has also added a line

of clean used clothing, shoes, bedding and kitchen supplies for the indigent. A flu vaccination drive was also set up. The pantry staff does not distribute any religious literature or proselytize but would provide information about Islam when asked. The current budget is around \$1000/month and the food provided is of the highest quality (what we consume they also get!), is pork -free and zabiha where applicable. The pantry staff is often asked why provide the recipients (90%+ Christian) halal food- the response is because we will only give them what we eat- nothing different! Those wishing to establish such a pantry in their community or wanting to help us run and expand this halal pantry in Memphis, may contact the author at (901) 240-5057 or [jogijogi99@gmail.com](mailto:jogijogi99@gmail.com). There is a need to establish a large network of such food pantries across US- it is both American and Islamic.

